

I am writing to request that the Commisioners retain the current limits on U.S. media ownership at your meeting scheduled for June 2, 2003.

At a time when the cultural and ideological makeup of our nation is at its most diverse, I feel that the fiscal and creative control of the media properties that report on and otherwise reflect our communities, our nation, and the world as a whole should be encouraged to reflect this shift. As things presently stand, I do not trust that such reflection is currently taking place. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited as their ownerships become fewer amidst frequent corporate mergers and property swaps done, not with the community or even the content in mind, but seemingly with stock value and creating/cultivating markets as the sole parameters.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003, and also encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all regions of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public in the process. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the views and priorities of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also the views of those with social and civic interests.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, the American media-buying/using public should be allowed to discuss and examine these issues as thoroughly as possible. Therefore, I encourage the Commissioners to expand the period of comment and discussion on this decision to ensure that such a wide-ranging dialogue takes place.